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TEXT OF COMMUNICATION DATED 19 NOVEMBER 1962 FROM PRIME

MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO OF CUBA TO ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL U THANT

Following is the text of a communication* from Prime Minister Fidel Castro to Acting Secretary-General U Thant, as transmitted to the United Nations by the Permanent Mission of Cuba:

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretary-General and has the honor to transmit to him, upon the instructions of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, the following message:

"U Thant,
Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations

"Your Excellency:

"The Government of the United States and the most reactionary section of the press of that country are endeavouring to create the impression that the Government of Cuba wishes to hamper and sabotage the possibilities for a peaceful solution of the present crisis.

"This attitude is based on two absolutely legitimate decisions of our people:

"The first: not to accept the unilateral inspection of our land whereby the Government of the United States wishes to decide questions which are entirely within our jurisdiction as a sovereign nation.

"The second: not to be prepared to permit invasion of our air space which are injurious to our security and offensive to our national dignity.

"The Government of Cuba has not created the slightest obstacle to the negotiations which are taking place. This has been and it is our position. Our attitude to the threats and insults of the Government of the United States is something very different.

(more)

* Unofficial translation from Spanish.

"The United States has now made the IL-28 medium bombers stationed on Cuban territory the crux of the problem.

"These planes are the property of the Soviet Government. They were brought to Cuba for the defence of our country when faced with aggression. Owing to their limited speed and low flight ceiling, they are antiquated equipment in relation to modern means of anti-aircraft defence.

"It is clear that the position of the Government of the United States in demanding the withdrawal of these planes merely constitutes a pretext for maintaining tension, prolonging the crisis and continuing its policy of force. Nevertheless, if the Soviet Government considers it desirable for the smooth conduct of the negotiations and the solution of the crisis to withdraw these planes, the Revolutionary Government of Cuba will not object to this decision.

"At the same time high officials of the Government of the United States have declared that military aircraft of that country will continue violating Cuban sovereignty and invading our air space.

"These illegal and aggressive acts are in flagrant contradiction with international law and the United Nations Charter.

"Cuba possesses a legitimate and indisputable right to defend its territory against such violations and it repeats the warning that to the extent of the fire power of our anti-aircraft weapons any war plane which invades Cuban air space can do so only at the risk of being destroyed.

"If during the perpetration of such arbitrary acts against our country, an incident should occur, the responsibility will fall wholly upon the Government of the United States.

"We wish to tell you once again, Mr. Secretary-General, that we are prepared sincerely to consider a broad solution which will resolve the present tension once for all.

"(more)

"We believe that this will be beneficial for all the peoples affected by the present situation, just as any conflict would be harmful to all. The moment has arrived when it will become clear who wants peace and who does not want peace. Cuba will never be an obstacle to a just and decent solution, acceptable to all. Cuba is simply defending its sovereignty, the right of self-determination of its people, the legal equality of all States, large or small, the right of every nation to work, to progress and to live in peace; to respect and be respected.

"If the Government of the United States, despite the sober attitude of the Soviet Union and the readiness of Cuba to promote a worthy and stable peace insists on its acts of force against our country, no one need have any illusions about the inevitable result of this policy.

"Cuba will not give in to a policy of force. Its Revolution will remain firm, its people will resist, cost what it may. Let our enemies not deceive themselves. With the strength born of right and patriotism we shall make the aggressors, if they attack us, pay very dearly for their crime.

"The United States is constantly threatening our country with war. It would be a war without glory and without honor, against a people who will never admit to defeat.

"May I assure you once again of my highest consideration,

Fidel CASTRO RUZ
Prime Minister of the
Revolutionary Government of Cuba"

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations takes this opportunity of repeating to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurance of its highest consideration.

New York, 19 November 1962